

SHERRY ELLEBRACHT

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2020*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sherry Ellebracht, who after 22 years working for the Regional Transportation District (RTD), is retiring. Sherry's dedication to transportation for the State of Colorado has made a significant impact which will last for years to come.

In 1998, Sherry joined RTD's government relations department working to engage with local, state and federal leaders on issues related to transit and transportation in Colorado.

In her role, Sherry managed all state and federal activities and monitored proposed legislation in the Colorado state legislature and in the U.S. House and Senate. At the federal level, one of her primary responsibilities involves coordinating the agency's annual appropriations requests and authorizations in the transportation funding bills. In addition, she monitored all municipal activities and worked with the RTD local government liaison to stay abreast of local issues, including representing RTD on the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA) Board of Directors and even serving as President of the organization. She has been a part of RTD for the passage of two significant public votes, 4A for the SE corridor and FasTracks, as well as FFGAs for the Southeast (\$525 million), West (\$308 million) and Eagle P3 lines (\$1.03 billion) and over \$257 million in federal funding for Union Station—a total of close \$2 billion in federal funding.

Outside of her work at RTD, Sherry is a member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority alumnae and has held various positions in that organization. In 2008, she was nominated for the Denver Area Panhellenic Alumnae Achievement Award. Through her work with RTD and other groups, Sherry has created numerous partnerships and helped improve outcomes in the transit community and for the quality of life of the residents of Colorado. I congratulate Sherry on a lifetime of service and wish her all the best in retirement.

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP AND  
LEGACY OF CHAIRWOMAN NITA  
M. LOWEY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2020*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the remarkable leadership of Chairwoman NITA M. LOWEY. NITA has made the nation, and the world, a far better place because of her commitment to the Appropriations Committee, and her outstanding achievements will forever be honored and celebrated here in the Congress.

I cherish the 25 years we have spent together fighting for expanded access to women's health, the inclusion of women in NIH clinical trials, increased investment in early childhood education, adequate worker protections, and so much more. Beyond her professionalism, dedication, and leadership, NITA is

genuine and compassionate. As she has for many of our other colleagues, she has been there for me in times of need. I will miss seeing her in the halls of Congress and on the Appropriations Committee, but our friendship endures.

In honor of her outstanding legacy, I include in the RECORD the Chairwoman's farewell remarks to the House Appropriations Committee on July 15, 2020, the final day of markups for the 116th Congress:

Good morning, everyone. As we begin our final day of consideration of the FY21 spending bills, I'd like to thank you all for your kind words and well wishes and ask you to indulge me in just a few more reflections.

I came to Congress in 1989, one of just 31 women in the House and Senate, and to this Committee in 1993 alongside only six other women on the 64-member panel.

This body is better for the 100 women serving in the 116th Congress and for the many women in this room today. It's my honor to address the full Committee for my final time as the first woman Chair.

You know, it's ironic that back in 1993, I had to choose between serving on Appropriations or Ways and Means. And today we mark up my final Appropriations bills in the Ways and Means Committee room.

I chose Appropriations because I believed it was the best place to give more people a better chance at a better life. After nearly 30 years on Committee, I still believe that.

In fact, nowhere else in Congress could I have advanced such a diverse range of priorities. In the days of congressionally directed spending—something I hope you all restore—I brought home hundreds of millions to help my constituents directly, from transportation hubs and commuter services, bridge and road safety, early learning and health centers, to economic development and job training, school safety, senior centers, flooding relief, and more.

Of course, without those projects, I have created new programs, including one that protects vulnerable nonprofits at a time of rising anti-Semitism and hate, like those in my district surrounding the community that experienced a tragic attack at a Hanukkah party last year.

Nationally, we advanced the .08 blood alcohol content standard for drunk driving that has saved countless lives. Following September 11th, we funded the new Department of Homeland Security, and I have fought hard for New York's fair share of its investments in our preparedness and response capabilities.

I am so proud of tremendous accomplishments for women's health—from protecting and expanding access to family planning here and abroad, to gains in research equity and breast cancer research and securing contraceptive coverage for federal employees that led to dramatically expanded coverage for women today. And, let me just say, we will never go back to the days when NIH excluded women from clinical trials—when even the lab rats were all male.

Among many education achievements, we established the first federal afterschool programs that have grown to a billion dollar investment today and served millions of children and families. And, it was certainly fun to bring Bert and Ernie to a hearing to help save PBS's federal funding.

Despite my passion for these priorities, I bucked conventional wisdom to become Ranking Member on the State and Foreign Operations subcommittee rather than the Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee. I cannot overstate my commitment to our responsible investments through our foreign aid bill that make the world better, safer, and

healthier while improving the security of generations here at home.

At the heart of that work is providing a basic education to the world's children so that they may thrive and prosper, be healthier and resilient to dangerous influences, and create a more stable world. So what a moving and rewarding honor it was to have my dear friends Ranking Member Granger and Ranking Member Rogers recognize my work on international basic education by naming that program for me last week in the State and foreign operations markup.

While my time as the Chairwoman of this Committee has been short, our achievements together will have a lasting impact.

Despite our differences and disagreements, or perhaps because of them, we ultimately recognize that the power of the purse—one of the most important entrusted to us by the Constitution—requires us to build consensus and put the interests of the American people first.

I took the Appropriations gavel in January 2019, in the middle of the longest partial government shutdown in U.S. history.

Not only did we reach bipartisan agreement to reopen government, we cleared all 12 fiscal year 2020 appropriations bills through committee and 10 off the House floor before the Senate introduced a single bill, and we enacted all 12 before the end of the calendar year.

As appropriators, we lead by example, with common sense and deliberation.

Our ability to transcend party differences and make hard choices within the constraints of limited funding makes us worthy of the privilege to hash out the biggest battles of the day.

Through virtual and remote work and in masks and gloves today, this Committee is confronting twin crises—one most of us never expected, the other only the willfully indifferent could not have anticipated.

In recent months, we have led the way to invest trillions to stem the spread of a global pandemic and mitigate the worst of its devastating economic impacts.

The fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills continue those efforts even as we address systemic racism, a crisis that has reached a boiling point in recent weeks.

We have acted on the urgent need for meaningful police reform and economic development in disadvantaged communities that is fundamental to a more just and equitable society that lives up to our highest values and aspirations.

We are living through a time of heightened cynicism and polarization, of suffering and pain, and great uncertainty, with too little compassion and leadership from some at the highest levels of power.

The old adage you might have heard me say a time or two—that in Washington there are Republicans, Democrats, and appropriators—is perhaps more important now than ever.

My parting request to you is this: do not succumb to the pervasive partisanship that permeates what can feel like all aspects of our professional—and even sometimes our personal—lives.

Beyond keeping government's doors open and lights on, conduct robust oversight and demand accountability and transparency on the use of taxpayer dollars, defend our constitutional prerogatives against Executive Overreach regardless of who occupies the White House or the Speaker's office. Always strive to use the power of the purse to unlock the full potential of this nation.

Over the next weeks and months, I will continue that hard work with all of you, who are at the heart of what makes this the best Committee in Congress. If you're looking for